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Questions for Public Forums on Options for a Wisconsin Public Health Institute

1. Is a public health institute needed in Wisconsin?

Do key Wisconsin health policy makers, health care providers, researchers, planners and other community leaders see a need for a public health institute? If yes, why? If no, why not? What areas of health promotion and/or disease prevention programming are not being fully addressed or are threatened at this time in Wisconsin? What is it that is not currently being done with respect to the collection, analysis and dissemination of health data and information in Wisconsin that needs to be done? What is it that is not being done or not done well from a health policy perspective?

2. What kinds of activities might such an institute undertake?

Should the institute collect original data, make existing data sets more user friendly and accessible, enhance the marketing and dissemination of health data, conduct policy analyses, develop and implement health promotion and disease prevention programs or do something else? If there are gaps in the existing data or service systems in public health, how could an institute contribute to problems of particular concern? What if any functions now performed by state or local staff could move to an Institute?

3. Who should be the primary audience(s) for the institute's work?

Should the primary audience be public officials, state and local health planners, the general public, academia, the media, health program managers, budget analysts, public and private purchasers of health care, community foundations, Local Health Departments, patients or providers?

4. What level of core/infrastructure funding would be required to establish and operate a Wisconsin Public Health Institute?

What is the start-up cost for an institute? What kind of operating budget would the institute need? To what extent could or should the institute rely on raising money through grant-funded projects?

5. How should the agenda and priorities of the institute be set?

Who should set the institute's agenda, using what information and processes? How should the institute respond to competing demands for its services? What criteria should guide priority decisions?

6. How should the institute be organized, who should sit on its board and how should it be staffed?

Should the institute be a freestanding nonprofit entity? Should it be housed at a university or in a foundation? What are appropriate staffing levels and what kinds of people should be hired to run the institute? What about governance of the institute? Who should sit on the board of directors? What agencies/organizations should be key partners?